assets at the village level and assets to enable the rural poor to increase the opportunities for sustained employment. Its secondary objective is generation of supplementary employment for the unemployed poor in the rural areas. The wage employment under the programme is given to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families.

From 1.12.1997, Swarna Jayanti Sahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) is the main poverty alleviation programme in the urban areas. The SJSRY, which has subsumed all the earlier three urban poverty alleviation programmes, *viz.*, Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY), Urban Basic Services for the Poor (UBSP), Prime Minsiter's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMIUPEP), seeks to provide gainful employment to unemployed or underemployed urban and educated up to IX standard for setting up self-employment ventures or provision of wage employment. The implementation of SJSRY is relying on suitable community structures on the UBSP pattern and delivery of inputs under this programme is through the medium of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and such community structure.

National Commission on Population

4515. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the terms of reference of the National Commission on Population;

(b) whether the Commission has started functioning; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons and by when it is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The terms of reference of the National Commission on Population are given below:

(i) To review, monitor and give directions for the implementation of the National Population Policy with a view to meeting the goals set out in the Policy.

(ii) To promote synergy between demographic, educational,

environmental and developmental programmes so as to hasten population stabilisation.

(iii) To promote inter-sectoral coordination in planning and implementation across Government agencies of the Central and State Governments, to involve the civil society and the private sector and to explore the possibilities of international cooperation in support of the goals set out in the Policy.

(iv) To facilitate the development of a vigorous people's movement in support of this national effort.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Families under BPL

4516. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the families covered under Below Poverty Line (BPL) alongwith the criteria followed by Government therefor;

(b) whether the daily wages employees and contract employees working in Government offices are also covered under this Scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) In the rural areas at the behest of Ministry of Rural Development (MORD), the State Governments conduct the Below Poverty Line (BPL) census at the beginning of each Five Year Plan in order to identify BPL families, who are ultimately the beneficiaries of the programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development. The BPL Census for the 9th Five Year Plan was conducted on the basis of criteria suggested by an Expert Group. The schedules used in the census had two parts, *i.e.* Part-A & B. Part-A sought information like whether the household has more than 2 hectares of land, has a *Pucca* house, TV, Refrigerator, Ceiling Fan, Motorcycle/Scooter, Three-Wheeler, Tractor, Power Tiller, Combined Thresher/harvester, etc. If "Yes" is